

Sex anchored

This will attempt to discuss just a few of the many things you learn in life, which are not included in the university curriculum. Sorry, it will not include how to spend money, stay happy, keep your roommate from destroying you or anything as relevant as that. Topics which are covered try to show the initial dangers and problems of sex and how, once eliminated, you have a thousand other problems. Extracts from a recent conversation with Dr. Meyers, the director of Student Health on the campus, are included to assure that information contained in the article is up-to-date. It is not intended to be written only for the young females on campus. It is, however, written to them. I hope they read it, think about it, agree or disagree, and express their thoughts.

By JUDY STEEVES

Since the Age of Majority Act was passed in the last legislature, all females 19 years of age and over can get the Birth Control Pill very easily provided they pass the initial physical examination and have \$2.50 a month to pay for it. Those female students under 19 years of age must have written consent from a parent or a legal guardian. Any doctor at Student Health, like all New Brunswick doctors, could be held responsible by the parent for prescribing the pill to someone under the age of 19, who does not have this proof of consent. The clinic will not ask you a series of heavy questions, either. Many of the doctors working at universities strongly recommend that females take it. The possibility of pregnancy is too great and too shocking to allow it to upset your school year. Most young girls cannot envision themselves in the state of pregnancy at the time of sexual intercourse. The fear of becoming pregnant can slowly fade out of mind, especially if you are passionately involved with a new friend, an old friend, or just anybody.

Nevertheless, nature paces us on a 28-day menstrual cycle, if you have not already upset it, and allows approximately 24 to 48 hours for conception during that time. This might sound like a "helluva long time to play around" each month, but it isn't. Furthermore the consequences are too real, too earth-shattering to put yourself through. Why bother? You will have nothing to gain by an unwanted pregnancy except a depression, multitudes of philosophical questions which you are not prepared to answer at this stage in your life, and a strained relationship with some male who will try to be the man he supposes he now is.

Let us assume you decide not to take the pill, for some reason which may be discussed later in the article. Then, it happens, just like that with a "it was our first time, goddamit" or "we were always so careful". You are pregnant, not him (blaming him is a stage you may go through).

You can have the baby, on principle, even if you would rather not. That is just the beginning of one solution. Afterwards, leaving school, adoption, and marriage questions appear. This, for the most part, is a sad solution. If you have rushed into a sexual relationship, why should this have anything to do with marriage? Unwanted children have no place in today's over-populated world. You cannot manifest maternal desires by giving birth to a child you know you will not have time for.

We know there are a billion things to be done for mankind and the world in every field. Here you are at an "institution of higher learning" where, even if it does not allow you to think for yourself, it does provide you with countless means of gaining knowledge. Gracious, young women should no longer rob the world of their ideas with their excuses of shyness, dumbness, disinterest or femaleness. They must come out of their shadows and present their ideas to debate, to influence, and to inspire.

The second solution to your pregnancy is not to have the baby. This can be carried out in several ways. Suicide, puncturing your womb, falling down a long flight of stairs to list a few which are effective, except they involve other rather serious problems. Do you understand?

In Canada, legal abortions may be performed only if the health — mental, as well as physical — of the woman is endangered. These abortions are okayed and arranged by therapeutic abortion boards at each hospital. These boards usually comprise a psychiatrist, a gynecologist, and other respectable doctors of the community. In Fredericton, it is difficult to be approved for mental reasons by the board unless you are considered almost psychotic. Since most young women are physically very capable of having children, the chances of a legal abortion here are almost nil. If you are from out-of-town, you could consult a general practitioner in your area and ask him to refer your case to the local abortion board. As you can see, it is generally advisable not to get your hopes up for a legal abortion.

The backwardness or conservatism of these Canadian abortion laws is utterly disgusting. They are due partly to years of male chauvinism on the part of doctors, lawyers, and legislators. The men are not bothered by unwanted children because their wives have been contraception-conscious or they have had the necessary amount of money for an abortion or for raising the child. Unfortunately, many women, whose lifetime occupation has been raising children do not understand contraception or comprehend the necessary amount of money and time that a child requires. The passivity and innocent sacrifices of the historical role of women also take its share of blame in this dilemma of unwanted children. We must realize that women are more than breeders and that rearing children should only be done by those who want to undertake it. Women must assume responsibility of their own bodies.

Lastly, in solving our pregnancy plight, is the possibility of an illegal abortion. This is easy provided you have \$300 to \$600. Think about that, in terms of tuition, books, etc. It's a lot of money. But, nobody will be aware of your disgraceful situation. To date, the closest city providing safe, skillful abortions is Montreal. You can telephone an abortion clinic for arrangements and, within 24-hours, be perfectly cured and back home. Most girls, who have never taken the pill usually begin it after their first abortion. However the rate of re-occurrence is surprising. So, some girls do not like the pill.

And why the hell should we? There are such things as side effects, i.e. sore legs, tiredness, weight gain, etc. Besides, men do not have to take anything. Granted, science is still working on the morning-after pill and pills for men, but at this time, the birth control pill is acknowledged to be the best method of contraception. Furthermore any woman who psychologically wants to take the pill has few side-effects — usually none — except peace of mind and a greater sexual enjoyment.

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